(c) the steps taken to contain recurrence of such accidents and the details of the assistance given to the dependants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) On the afternoon of 28th January, 2001, 17 workers of the contractor were going down for completion of balance drilling works of Shaft (T-2) of Spillway Structures of Tehri Project and during the process of lowering, the rope trolley went out of control and could not be stopped at the required level and hit the surface down below. As a result, all the 17 workers were killed.

The concerned contractor is reported to have deposited compensation for the deceased with the Labour Commissioner as per the requirement of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The contractor has also decided to pay additional compensation to the dependants/legal heirs of each deceased worker. The total compensation payable works out to Rs. 5 lacs to each deceased worker.

A Magisterial Inquiry has been ordered by the State Government into the accident.

With a view to avoiding recurrence of such mishaps, steps have been taken by way of increased frequency of checking and maintenance of all mechanical equipments being used at the work site besides taking safety measures by the contractor.

Safety precautions for Agni-II

* 170. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether test-firing of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni-II and its proposed induction in the India's defence arsenal available for deployment like any other weapon of war, is a positive step towards our defence preparedness;

(b) whether adequate safety precautions have been taken to manage an accidental detonation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof so that men, material and property in the vicinity could be quite safe in such an eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, as there are a number of built-in safety mechanisms in Agni-II Missile System, which ensure that no accidental detonation takes place.